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Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Summary record of the 1st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 1 October 2009, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Al-Nasser ..... (Qatar)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 5: Election of the officers of the Main Committees

1. **The Chairperson** said that the Group of Western European and Other States had nominated Mrs. Schroderus-Fox (Finland) for the remaining office of Vice-Chairperson of the Committee for the sixty-fourth session.

2. *Mrs. Schroderus-Fox (Finland) was elected Vice-Chairperson by acclamation.*

Organization of work (A/C.4/64/1; A/C.4/64/L.1; A/C.4/64/INF/1)

3. **The Chairperson** drew attention to document A/C.4/64/1, which contained the agenda items allocated to the Committee, and to document A/C.4/64/L.1, which contained the Committee's programme of work with a proposed timetable.

4. He then drew attention to the relevant rules and recommendations of the General Assembly contained in the report of the General Committee (A/64/250) regarding the work of the Main Committees, including those contained in General Assembly decision 34/401 and resolutions 58/126 and 58/316.

5. In order to make full use of the time and conference services that had been made available to the Committee, he would convene and adjourn meetings promptly and would convene meetings only when there were sufficient delegations inscribed on the list of speakers. All speakers, in particular the first three speakers for a given meeting, should be present in the Committee room on time.

6. The Assembly had decided to continue its practice of departing from the rule that one quarter of the members must be present for a Main Committee meeting to be declared open. On questions of procedure and organization of work, the Committee would comply strictly with the relevant provisions of General Assembly decision 34/401 (A/520/Rev.16, annex V). In line with the time limits for explanations of vote and rights of reply, statements on points of order should be limited to five minutes. He suggested that statements by members of the Committee during the general debate should not exceed 10 minutes, or 15 minutes in the case of those speaking on behalf of several delegations.

7. With respect to resolutions, he drew at inter alia, to paragraph 5 of General A resolution 48/264, which encouraged Member S exercise restraint in making proposals requesti reports of the Secretary-General, and to parag of resolution 57/270 B, which requeste resolutions should be short and focus more on oriented operative paragraphs.

8. With regard to programme budget impl and rule 153 of the rules of procedure, he noted General Assembly had drawn the Com attention to paragraph 12 of its decision 34/401 stated that it was imperative for the Main Con to allow sufficient time for the preparation estimate of expenditures by the Secretariat an consideration by the Advisory Commit Administrative and Budgetary Questions and t Committee. That could take a few days, depen the type and complexity of a proposal resolutions, draft decisions and amendments, with the names of the sponsors thereof, sh submitted, in writing, to the Secretariat, electronic and hard copies. The Secretariat req least 48 hours to process a draft resolution.

9. According to paragraph 3 (b) of section annex to resolution 58/316, the Committee w the end of the session, adopt a provisional pro of work for the next session. Agenda item 118, "Revitalization of the work of the General Ass had been allocated to the Committee solely purpose of approving the tentative programme for the Committee's next session. Agenda ite entitled "Programme planning", had been allo all the Main Committees and to the plenary General Assembly, in order to enhance discu evaluation, planning, budgeting and mo reports. Thus far, he had not received any info on that agenda item.

10. The Committee would continue with the of convening panels and holding interactive d under agenda item 27, entitled "University for agenda item 28, entitled "Assistance in mine agenda item 30, entitled "International coope the peaceful uses of outer space", agenda entitled "United Nations Relief and Works Ag Palestine Refugees in the Near East", agenda entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole of peacekeeping operations in all their aspe

agenda item 34, entitled "Questions relating to information".

11. In accordance with the decisions taken in connection with the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, particularly resolutions 56/509 and 58/126, the Committee would take up agenda item 5, entitled "Election of the officers of the Main Committees", approximately three months before the next session of the Assembly.

12. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to approve the programme of work and the timetable contained in document A/C.4/64/L.1.

13. *It was so decided.*

14. **The Chairperson** said that, as at previous sessions, the Committee would set up a working group of the whole to prepare draft resolutions for submission under agenda item 30, entitled "International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space". It was his understanding that the working group would be chaired by the delegation of Colombia. He took it that the Committee wished to establish the group.

15. *It was so decided.*

16. **The Chairperson** noted that, in approving its programme of work and timetable, the Committee had decided to hold one general debate covering all agenda items relating to decolonization, namely items 35 to 39. Doing so would enable Committee members to speak on any or all of those agenda items at any meeting devoted to the topic.

Requests for hearings (aides-memoires 01/09 and 01/09/Add.1)

17. **The Chairperson** drew attention to aides-memoires 01/09 and 01/09/Add.1, which contained 106 requests for hearings on the questions of Gibraltar, Guam, New Caledonia, the United States Virgin Islands and Western Sahara, and suggested that they should be circulated as Committee documents.

18. *It was so decided.*

19. **The Chairperson** said that he had also received a communication from the Chief Minister of Gibraltar, who wished to make a statement under agenda item 39. That statement would be scheduled accordingly.

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.